

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 126840 TOSEC 050047
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/PAN:SMBELL:BK

APPROVED BY ARA:WLUERS

S/S SGOLDSMITH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 126840 TOSEC 050047

EXDIS, QUITO FOR S/S-BODINE AND TODMAN

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: PANAMA NEGOTIATIONS RECESS

1. WHEN THE U.S.-PANAMA TALKS RESUMED AFTER THE MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND, THE PANAMANIAN SAID THEY NEEDED TO RETURN TO PANAMA FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH GENERAL TORRIJOS ON SIGNIFICANT AD REFERENDUM AGREEMENTS REACHED IN THE INTENSIVE NEGOTIATING ROUND WHICH BEGAN MAY 9. WE AGREED, BECAUSE WE ALSO HAVE SOME CATCHING-UP AND CONSULTING TO DO, IN BOTH THE EXECUTIVE AND THE CONGRESS.

2. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT THIS ROUND IS IN RECESS ONLY, AND WILL RESUME ABOUT JUNE 11 - 12. WHETHER THEY RESUME HERE OR IN PANAMA IS UNCERTAIN. DURING THE RECESS, U.S.-PANAMANIAN SPECIALISTS WILL CONTINUE TO WORK HERE ON THE DETAILS OF THE LANDS/WATERS ISSUE.

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3. THE PANAMANIAN SAID THEY AGREED TO "COORDINATE" WITH US THE HANDLING OF THE PANAMA AGENDA ITEM AT THE OAS MEETING IN GRENADA IN MID-JUNE. WE SEEK A BLAND "JOINT REPORT".

4. THEY LISTENED TO OUR NEGOTIATORS' REITERATED WARNING THAT PREMATURE DISCLOSURE BY TORRIJOS -- AT A GRAND-

STANDING MEETING HE HAS CONVOKED FOR THIS FRIDAY -- OF THE
CRITICAL NEGOTIATING DETAILS OF THIS ROUND WOULD BE

HARMFUL. THEY SAID THEY WOULD TRY TO WARD OFF THAT
DISCLOSURE. BUT WE CANNOT COUNT ON THEIR PERSUASIVENESS.

5. IN THE LAST SESSION HERE TUESDAY, THE PANAMANIAN
ACCEPTED OUR NEGOTIATORS' ASSESSMENT THAT "BROAD AGREEMENT"
EXISTS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES ON THE CONFIGURATION OF A
TREATY. HOWEVER, THEY HEDGED BY SAYING (1) THAT THE AD
REFERENDUM AGREEMENTS BY THE NEGOTIATORS ON INDIVIDUAL
ISSUES HINGE ON A "PACKAGE" AGREEMENT ON ALL ISSUES (A
HEDGE WHICH WE ALSO WANT), AND (2) THAT THE MAJOR ISSUE
OF U.S. PAYMENTS TO PANAMA DURING THE NEW TREATY'S
LIFETIME REMAINS TO BE DISCUSSED. (WE KNOW, INFORMALLY,
THAT THEY HAVE A FAR TOO COSTLY PROPOSAL TO PRESENT, AND
HAVE TOLD THEM -- ALSO INFORMALLY -- THAT IT IS NOT IN
THE NEGOTIATING BALLPARK.)

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